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Letter dated 7 May 2000 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to forward the attached text of a broadcast message to the nation by His Excellency President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, on recent events concerning UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone.

I should be grateful if the message could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sylvester E. **Rowe**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative (Political Affairs)

00-42098 (E) 070500

Annex to the letter dated 7 May 2000 from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone addressed to the President of the Security Council

Broadcast to the nation by H. E. President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on recent events concerning UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone

Several times in the past, I have said to you that your Government which you had elected will not allow itself to be taken unawares by an individual or group intent on destroying the lives and property of its citizens. Today, I wish to assure you that our resolve has not waned.

I realize that the events of the past several days have been very traumatic for you all. However, I ask you to have faith in your Government. We have all been extremely disappointed at the way some UNAMSIL troops have capitulated to RUF forces, but we have not yet reached the stage where we believe the United Nations is incapable of fulfilling its mandate. I have been assured by the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General that UNAMSIL is prepared to fully discharge its mandate, including the defence and protection of Freetown.

Up till this point, the Government has refrained from getting directly involved in military action against those who seem bent on derailing the peace process. We still believe that the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement is the best way to achieve lasting peace in our country. However, I would like to assure you that Government has an effective contingency plan in place which will be activated in the unlikely event that UNAMSIL is unable to provide adequate security in the face of aggressive action.

Fellow citizens, the unfortunate incident of misinformation that happened last night has no doubt created a lot of confusion in your minds. However, let us not compound the problem by spreading unfounded rumours. This only serves to create unnecessary panic, which is exactly what those who are seeking to destroy our country thrive on. As your elected President, I am committed to serving you and will do all in my power to ensure your safety and security. I therefore urge you all to rely on official Government releases for accurate information. We shall endeavour to keep you well informed.

Finally, I would like to warn all those intent on raining death and destruction on the citizens of this country to desist immediately. Failure to do so will result in dire consequences for the perpetrators. Be assured that I am determined to ensure that the nightmare in our history are not repeated.